

immediate future against a takeover attempt?

SENATOR DECAMP: Obviously, at the present time, with the law forbidding somebody, they are protected to a degree. I mean they are protected. In the future, it is again my opinion because you get ten bankers and they'll give you ten different opinions, I don't know that anybody can protect themselves against a takeover.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, if we are in fact...it seems to me what we are doing here, by increasing these limits, is allowing some of our institutions, perhaps only one in a practical manner, I don't know, I want to ask you more about that later, to get bigger. The theory is that they can better protect themselves. But if, in fact, they can't really protect themselves, and FirstTier will some day be a part of Bank of America or whatever...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...then what we are doing in an effort to allow them to protect themselves is to ensure that there are fewer large institutions in Nebraska than there might otherwise be.

SENATOR BARRETT: Time is up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would like to pursue that further with you. I would like to speak again, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz. Okay. Senator Vard Johnson, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, like Senator Beutler, I, too, have a question of Senator DeCamp because I need to know a little bit more about the amendment before I support it or choose not to support it. Our current law says that a multibank holding company is limited to bank acquisitions to the extent that those acquired facilities, except for failing facilities, shall...the total deposits of those acquired facilities shall not exceed 9 percent of the total deposits of all financial institutions in the State of Nebraska. I would like to know, Senator DeCamp, what is the total deposits today of all financial institutions in this state, if you know? You may not know that.